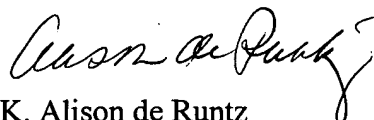


REMARKS

The claims have been amended to add new claims 2-44. New Claims 2-44 set forth subject matter that the inventors regard as the invention. No new matter has been added by virtue of this preliminary amendment.

Examination of the present application on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



K. Alison de Runtz
Reg. No. 37,119

PARSONS HSUE & DE RUNTZ LLP
655 Montgomery Street, Suite 1800
San Francisco, CA 94111
(415) 318-1160
(415) 693-0194 fax